

**CEPHALOPOD SKIN:**  
**Student Handout for Activity 3**

**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS *BEFORE* YOU BEGIN DRAWING YOUR CHROMATOPHORE LAYER:**

1) Describe your undersea background. What sorts of things do you recognize in your background? What sorts of shapes do you see? Are the shapes big or small? What sorts of colors do you see?

2) Make a claim about whether or not the type of chromatophore layer patterning and color choices in your design are effective or ineffective in camouflaging with your background. Support your claim with reasons drawn from your observations of your undersea background.

CLAIM:

REASONS:

Resource written by Randy Otaka

**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AFTER YOU DRAW YOUR CHROMATOPHORE LAYER.**

3) How successful were you at camouflaging with your background?

a. Was your choice of chromatophore layer patterning (Uniform, Mottled, or Disruptive) appropriate, based on the size, shape, and color of elements in the background?

**YES**

**NO**

b. Was your choice of chromatophore coloring (red, yellow, and/or brown) appropriate, based on the color scheme of the background?

**YES**

**NO**

c. Was it difficult to perceive the edges of your Cephalopod?

**YES**

**NO**

d. Was it difficult to distinguish the individual parts of your Cephalopod (i.e., Was it difficult to identify where the head was? The arms?)?

**YES**

**NO**

4) If you were successful at camouflaging with your background, why do you think you were successful? If you were unsuccessful at camouflaging with your background, why do you think you were unsuccessful?

5) In what types of environments (depth, lighting, backgrounds) do you think chromatophore layer patterning would be particularly effective? In what types of environments do you think chromatophore layer patterning would NOT be effective?